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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: P. Lippens et al. Attorney Docket No.: CASM116373
Application No.: 09/673,428 Group Art Unit: 1772
Filed: December 5, 2000 Examiner: C.A. Simone
Title: SECURITY ELEMENT TO PREVENT COUNTERFEITING
OF VALUE DOCUMENTS

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Seattle, Washington 98101

September 17, 2003

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-application be re-examined.

The June 18, 2003, Office Action ("Office Action") in the above-identified application rejected Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being fully anticipated by the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 4,849,618 (Namikawa et al.). In addition, Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Namikawa et al. taken in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,762,377 (Chamberlain), and Claims 9, 12, 13, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being patentable in view of the teachings of Namikawa et al. taken in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 4,960,651 (Pettigrew et al.) Applicants respectfully disagree and for the reasons set forth below submit that all of the claims are clearly allowable in view of the teachings of the cited references.

As noted above, the Office Action rejected Claims 1-5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 18, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being fully anticipated by the teachings of Namikawa et al. Applicants respectfully disagree. Namikawa et al. discloses a security element comprising a magnetic layer 5 and an embossed/embossable layer. In particular, the security element comprises a stripping base P, a top coating 1 (which also acts as a release layer), a white metal layer 4, a metal layer 5 having a high permeability, a main hard magnetic layer 6 having a high

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